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# Newsletter

## GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

May 28, 1952

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

Before this letter gets into print Mrs. Cardon and I will be on our way to Texas, where I am to speak at the annual open house of the Texas Research Foundation in Renner. Afterwards we plan to visit our daughter in Gulfport, Mississippi. We expect to return to Washington early in June.

### Ten new members

have recently been added to GS departmental committees. We welcome: Lawrence V. Compton, chief biology division, SCS, Ralph E. Hodgson, assistant chief BAI, and Byron J. Olson, medical director, laboratory of infectious diseases, National Institutes of Health, (Biological Sciences); Kenneth W. Olson acting chief of information, OFAR, (Languages and Literature); Murray A. Geisler, chief, standards evaluation branch, Office of Controller, Department of the Air Force, (Mathematics and Statistics); Edmund Stephens, assistant chief, BPISAE, and William S. Harris, chief of management improvement division, personnel, PMA, (Office Techniques and Operations); Joseph B. Levy, senior research associate, Naval Ordnance Laboratory, (Physical Sciences); Rowland Egger, director of Public Administration Clearing House, (Public Administration); and Harry F. Mabbitt, chief, buildings and structures section, engineering division, REA (Technology).

### Federal employees in Boston

will be able to participate in an after-hours program much like that of GS in the coming year. The work will be given at Boston University's Institute of Public Service. As I reported to you last month, the General Administration Board authorized me to explore possibilities of cooperation with selected universities in areas where there are large numbers of Federal employees. The objective is to set up a pilot program making GS-type courses available to Federal employees.

Dean Chester Alter of Boston University spent a day in Washington, early this month, discussing the plans with O. B. Conaway and me. We have agreed to assist him and his colleagues in reorganizing BU's present evening program to meet specific needs of Federal workers. We also are to help in program planning, in public relations, and in organizing an advisory committee of Federal officials in the area.

**What courses in public administration**

do students in agriculture, home economics, and forestry take? The Land Grant College - USDA Committee on Training for Government Service is making a survey of the colleges to find the answer to this question. The findings will be used to determine how future employees in these fields can best be given training that will help them as administrators and supervisors.

At its April meeting the joint Committee took two other steps designed to strengthen employee training. The committee recommended that:

(1) The following paragraph be used in memoranda of understanding between USDA and the Land-Grant Colleges: "In the interest of full utilization of personnel and rendering the best service to the public, both parties will see that the employees are properly supervised and developed through on-the-job training and necessary supplementary courses and workshops to assure effective performance in their assignments."

(2) The Curriculum Committee of the Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, USDA's state recruitment representatives, and student advisors of the colleges help students looking forward to the JAA examinations to take work basic to the selected options of the examinations.

In Washington for the meeting were: President Charles E. Friley of Iowa State College, Dr. Fred C. Smith, vice-president of the University of Tennessee, Dean Cecil W. Creel of the University of Nevada, Dr. Lloyd M. Short of the University of Minnesota, Miss Frances L. Zuill of the University of Wisconsin, and Dean David L. Arm of the University of Delaware. USDA representatives on the Committee were: C. O. Henderson (Personnel) acting chairman in the absence of T. Roy Reid, Hazel Stiebling (BHNHE) F. F. Elliott, (BAE), Verna Mohagen (SCS) representing H. H. Bennett, Dean Cochran (FS) representing Lyle Watts, M. C. Wilson (Extension), Joe Findlay (Personnel) secretary to the Committee, and myself.

**A GS correspondence course,**

"Comparative World Agriculture," was one of the steps that has led to an assignment in Turkey for Ralph E. Johnston, Bureau of Reclamation employee of Huron, S. D. Mr. Johnston took the course in 1946 under Clayton E. Whipple, then of OFAR. Then he was selected to go to Turkey for 2 years with the Elmer Starch mission recently, Mr. Johnston asked our help in getting in touch with Dr. Whipple during his brief stay in Washington en route to the new post. We assured him it would be an easy matter. Dr. Whipple is now with State in the Technical Cooperation Administration.

**We have revamped**

the courses on "Modern Russia". In the fall semester, we are offering instead, new courses in "Soviet Asia," and "Soviet Government and Political Institutions," to be taught by Valery J. Tereshtenko of Columbia University, and "The Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union, 1917-1950," to be given by Fritz T. Epstein, a member of the Slavic division of the Library of Congress.

### **Developments in administering**

the cooperative internship program and some of the thinking on changes in the program are highlighted in a GS sub-committee report recently transmitted by Secretary Brannan to Russell Thackery, executive secretary of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.

You will be interested in these notes from the report prepared by Fred V. Waugh (BAE), W. H. Larrimer (FS) and John H. Wells (B&F) in answer to a resolution adopted at the annual meeting of the ALGC&U:

It is not now possible for us to make definite and final commitments for hiring of interns until the Agricultural Appropriation has been passed by Congress. We will be glad to explore with representatives of the Association any possible means of financing the program by a grant from a research foundation or some similar method which would allow us to announce early in the year a firm program, which we were sure could be carried out.

GS will allow up to \$250 to pay expenses of one or more members of the ALGC&U Graduate Council serving on the GS committee on internship cooperation to bring about continuing cooperative appraisal and planning.

We accept the suggestion that an institution may submit a research problem developed by a faculty advisor in planning the work of a particular graduate student.

We will explore the possibility of locating some internships on the campuses of colleges and universities. Possibly this exploration can be made jointly with the schools.

We also will explore fully the possibility of providing internships in basic as well as in applied research.

### **Adult Leadership**

is a new magazine published in Chicago with a grant from the Ford Foundation. Articles will deal with questions such as: how to get a greater turnout for meetings, classes and conferences; how to make meetings more interesting; when and where to use charts, graphs, and films; how to use talents and skills available within the group; and where to get more information on these and similar problems.

### **The historic change**

in American foreign policy, says UN Ambassador Ernest Gross, can be attributed in no small part to the influence of inter-collegiate assemblies. The first of these was organized at Syracuse University in 1926 by H. Duncan Hall, now head of the GS Department of Social Sciences. Upwards of 100,000 students have participated in the assemblies in the past 25 years.

**"The steady hand**

and sympathetic understanding of the graduate faculty may be the deciding factor in carrying the less mature students through their period of study," notes the editor of the GRADUATE SCHOOL RECORD of Ohio State University.

The comment appears in an article reporting that a larger number of graduate students were dismissed because of low quality work in the last two quarters than at any time since 1946. As many students (950) were reported to have done unsatisfactory work in research as were reported in all previous 5 years. A disturbing number of students failed their general examinations for the doctoral degree.

The RECORD editor suggests that the prevalent spirit of unrest and uncertainty throughout society may be having its effect. In addition, graduate students seem to be adversely affected by factors of impending military service, low incomes, family responsibilities, and unestablished careers.

"No matter what unfavorable factors are involved in individual cases, the effort to improve their situations can best be accomplished by thoughtful and conscientious counselling. The critical element is genuine attention to the individual student and the consideration of both personal and academic affairs."

Sincerely,



Director

